

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of screening for a test compound or a salt thereof that changes a binding property of lysophosphatidic acid or a salt thereof to an EDG-2 receptor or a salt thereof and that inhibits mesangial cell growth;

wherein the EDG-2 receptor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

comprising the steps

a) bringing into contact the lysophosphatidic acid[[,]] and the EDG-2 receptor[[,]] and the test compound measuring the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor;

b) measuring the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor bringing into contact the lysophosphatidic acid, the EDG-2 receptor, and the test compound and measuring the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor;

c) measuring the effect of the test compound on the binding activity of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor by comparing a) and b);

e)d) determining whether the test compound changes the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor;

e)e) bringing into contact a mesangial cell expressing the EDG-2 receptor and the lysophosphatidic acid and measuring mesangial cell growth;

e)f) bringing into contact a mesangial cell expressing the EDG-2 receptor, lysophosphatidic acid, and the test compound of step e)d) determined to change the binding

property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor and measuring mesangial cell growth;

f)g) measuring the effect of the test compound on mesangial cell growth by comparing d)e) and e)f); and

g)h) determining whether the test compound inhibits mesangial cell growth.

9-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps

a) administering the test compound that changes the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG2 receptor and that inhibits mesangial cell growth to an test-animal model for diabetic nephropathy, chronic renal failure, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial renal disease or renal edema and

b) determining whether the test compound improves a condition of diabetic nephropathy, chronic renal failure, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial renal disease or renal edema.